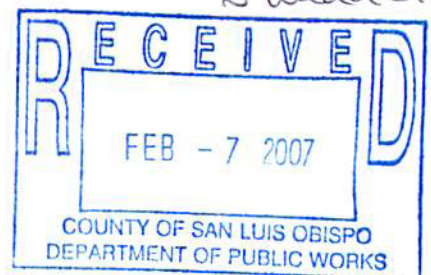


J Waddell



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT
TO A BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE

Date: February 7, 2007

Applying For: Los Osos Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee

Name: Thomas A Ruehr

Address: [REDACTED]

Home Phone: [REDACTED] Business Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax Phone: [REDACTED] E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Supervisory District: 2-Gibson Years resided in County: 33

Present Occupation/Employer: Cal Poly see attached

If retired, past Occupation/Employer: _____

Education: BSc 1966, MSc 1970, PhD 1976 see attached

List any school courses, volunteer activities, special skills, training, certificates, licenses, or work experience that you feel relate to your qualifications. If you like, you may attach a separate sheet for this purpose or to state your qualifications.

see attached

Previous service on county or city advisory bodies or an elected office (names/dates).

see attached

Membership in Organizations: see attached

Please explain why you would like to serve (attach a separate sheet if necessary):

see attached

If appointed, are you willing to participate in the majority of meetings each year and, if necessary, in numerous related meetings or subcommittees? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Should you be appointed, are you willing, if necessary for that particular body, to file a statement of disclosure as a public official under the standards set forth by the Fair Political Practice Commission? ☒ YES ☐ NO

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Date called/interviewed _____ Recommended for appointment? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Appointee prefers not to have address or phone number published? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Additional Comments: _____

Thomas A Ruehr application

County of San Luis Obispo, CA

Application for appointment to a board, commission or committee

Date: February 7, 2007

Applying for: Los Osos Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee

Name: Thomas A Ruehr

Address:

Home phone:

Business phone:

Fax phone:

E-mail address:

Supervisory District: District 2 (Bruce Gibson Supervisor)

Years resided in County: Los Osos resident since 1974 (33 years)

Present occupation / employer:

Professor, Earth and Soil Sciences Department, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.

Education:

B. Sc. 1966 The Ohio State University Agronomy Soils

M. Sc. 1970 Iowa State University Agronomy Soils

Ph. D. 1976 Colorado State University Agronomy Soils

List any school courses, volunteer activities, special skills, training, certificates, licenses, or work experience you feel relates to your qualifications. If you like, you may attach a separate sheet for this purpose or to state your qualifications.

Taught courses in soil science. Member of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.

Co-author of a book on fertigation providing me with information on water quality and irrigation water application and infiltration into soil including wastewater treatment and filtration for use by golf course superintendents nationwide.

Taught course on soil vadose zone remediation taken by environmental engineers dealing with both inorganic and organic compounds contaminating soils and ground water and the processes whereby these hazardous compounds (including nitrates and biosolids) can be removed or eliminated.

Taught soil microbiology and biochemistry. Member of the American Society for Microbiology and the American Chemical Society. Emphasis upon microbial processes for the decomposition of a vast array of natural and synthetic compounds by a diversity of microorganisms including bacteria, actinomycetes, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, and larger organisms as earthworms, etc.

Team taught Human values in agriculture (Liberal Arts) since 1984 and World food politics (systems) since 1993, and Global Environment since 2003 . Provides my understanding of ethics and political and environmental involvement.

Obtained a \$ 10,000 Grant from the County of Santa Barbara to evaluate yard waste for direct incorporation into soil. Provided major thesis support for Tom Lockhart.

Have made presentations regarding the Los Osos situation at the following times:

Testified before the California Coastal Commission on January 16, 1998 regarding the Los Osos proposal for a wastewater alternative at Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Panel discussion about the Los Osos sewer situation and the Solution Group's recommendations on KVEC radio from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. November 18, 1997.

Panel discussion about the Los Osos sewer situation on KCBX radio 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. November 6, 1997.

Thomas A Ruehr. 1997. Water Management Philosophy for Los Osos, CA. Blue Ribbon Committee for Water Management in Los Osos, December 16, 1997.

Thomas A Ruehr. 1995. Testimony on the Los Osos / Baywood Park nitrogen study. before the Regional Water Quality Control Board. March 9, 1995.

Thomas A Ruehr. 1994. Nitrates in Los Osos. Cal Poly Physics Colloquium. October 13, 1994.

Thomas A Ruehr. 1994. Nitrate study for Los Osos, CA. San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting. August 9, 1994.

Have been a co-author of the following publications regarding the Los Osos situation:

Solution Group. 1997. Los Osos / Baywood Park Comprehensive resource management plan. A plan by and for the Community. November 24, 1997. Members of the Solution Group include Les Bowker, Wade Brim, Frank Freiler, Jerry Gregory, Geof Gurley, Stan Gustafson, Gordon Hensley, Virgil Just, Gary Karner, David Mayfield, Pandora Nash-Karner, Paul Reynolds, Thomas Ruehr, Bob Semenson, Roger Shields, and Stan Stein.

Wade Brim, Thomas A Ruehr and Rajeev Dwivedi. 1994. Los Osos / Baywood Park nitrogen study by the Technical Advisory Committee to the County of San Luis Obispo, CA, revised 8-10-94. A Technical Report

Previous service on County or City advisory bodies or an elected office (names / dates)

Tour of Monterey County Wastewater Treatment Facility consulting with Los Osos Valley farmers regarding the potential for wastewater treatment as a form of agricultural exchange for the sewer treatment plant water. June 116, 2006.

Served as a member of the Ripley Pacific Engineering Company consulting about the Los Osos, CA sewer alternatives. March to August, 2006.

State Technical Advisory Committee to the California Dairy Campaign and the Natural Resource Conservation Service for their \$ 2,000,000 demonstration grant regarding the effectiveness of red water as opposed to black water dairy lagoons in the San Joaquin Valley 2004 - 2006

Technical Advisory Committee on Biosolids and Treated Wastewater for the San Luis Obispo County Health Department, 1999 - 2003

Member of the Biosolids task force for the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission, 1998 - 1999.

Member of the Solution Group for Los Osos, CA 1997 - 1999.

Blue Ribbon Committee for Drainage and Water Management in Los Osos. Chair 1993. 1990-1998.

Thomas A Ruehr. 1994. Nitrate study for Los Osos, CA. Community Service Area 9 meeting. July 14, 1994.

Technical Advisory Committee on Alternative Wastewater Strategies for Los Osos for the County Board of Supervisors, San Luis Obispo County. 1993-1994.

Technical Advisory Committee on the Los Osos Sewer Assessment Project for the County Board of Supervisors, San Luis Obispo County 1991-1993. Study involved nitrate transformations below septic tanks

Technical Advisory Committee on Solid Waste Management for the County Board of Supervisors. 1991

Membership in organizations:

Soil Science Society of America
American Chemical Society
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture NACTA
Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society

Please explain why you would like to serve (attach a separate sheet if necessary).

I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve on this committee. First, I provided expert advice to the County Engineering Analytical Laboratory when they had analytical problems in testing nitrate in Los Osos. I served as a member of the Nitrate Study of Los Osos Technical Advisory Committee, the Los Osos Wastewater Alternatives Technical Advisory Committee and the County Health Department's Technical Advisory Committee on Biosolids.

I served as a chair of the Los Osos Blue Ribbon Committee on Water. I served on the Solutions Group seeking an effective wastewater treatment process for Los Osos. I served as a member of the Ripley Pacific Engineering team when they provided the recent report on alternative water treatment for Los Osos. Almost no one else has as extensive understanding and involvement in the circumstances surrounding the Los Osos wastewater problems.

Almost every aspect of the Los Osos wastewater treatment contains serious concerns on my part. The recharge of the wastewater onto the sand dunes of Los Osos will result in serious problems and make it non-viable on the long term as a means for groundwater recharge. The disposal and decomposition of the biosolids has been dismissed as not important for the wastewater project in the past, but this is central to the entire process, especially with the recent actions of Kern County and other locations banning disposal of biosolids on farm land.

Engineers have ignored several major soil problems plaguing the wastewater piping and collection process and the wastewater recharge. These include major leakage from large diameter pipes on the major sloping hillsides of the community and the probable leakage of sea water into these same pipes in the low lying areas of Los Osos. This sea water leakage into the piping will destroy the effective wastewater treatment process and will destroy its use for future water reuse in Los Osos. In addition, my understanding of microbiology can provide greater insight into the best way to biodegrade the sewage in the treatment plant and the subsequent decomposition of the resulting biosolids. The processing of the biosolids has been ignored by the proposed sewage treatment projects prior to the Ripley Pacific report.

Having served on the Ripley Pacific Engineer team has provided me with greater insight into how alternative wastewater systems can be designed and can be interfaced with our existing processes to optimize the process. My ethics, political and environmental courses and teaching have provided me with holistic ways to view the Los Osos problem to see all facets and to look beyond the specific problems to the overarching difficulties and potential future consequences of installing any particular proposed solution for Los Osos.

In addition, I am particularly concerned about the economy of the project and hope to see an economic impact analysis performed on the proposed project. I want to have a project in place as soon as possible, but I am very aware of the problems which have occurred in the past as people seek a political solution without properly addressing the associated technical difficulties. The problems of wastewater infiltration and ground water recharge plus biosolids treatment and disposal are obvious examples of how these problems have been sidelined in the attempt to achieve a quick fix. I have seen too many projects installed based upon a quick fixes and resulting in the subsequent technical changes required to overcome these resulting problems. These subsequent changes will easily cost the community of Los Osos two to three times the total cost of the initial installation, and these costs could be eliminated if these problems are properly anticipated and dealt with in detail prior to the initial installation of the wastewater collection, treatment and recycling process.

I have read and agree to follow the by-laws as listed on the web site:
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/LOWWP.htm

If appointed, are you willing to participate in the majority of meetings each year and, if necessary, in numerous related meetings or subcommittees? XXX Yes No

Should you be appointed, are you willing, if necessary for the particular body, to file a statement of disclosure as a public official under the standards set forth by the Fair Political Practice Commission? XXX Yes No